United Nations A/55/308

General Assembly

Distr.: General
18 August 2000

Original: English

Fifty-fifth session
Item 109 of the provisional agenda*
Advancement of women

Status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Report of the Secretary-General**

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* A/55/150.

** This report was submitted after the 12-week deadline in order to include results of the twenty-third session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, which ended on 30 June 2000, and the pre-session working group for the twenty-fourth session of CEDAW, which ended on 7 July 2000.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 54/137 on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, in which the Assembly urged States that had not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to do so in order to achieve universal ratification of the Convention by the year 2000 and emphasized full compliance by States parties with their obligations under the Convention, including compliance with regard to submission of reports in accordance with article 18. The Assembly urged States parties to limit the extent of any reservations they lodged to the Convention, formulate such reservations as narrowly as possible, ensure that no reservations are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention or otherwise incompatible with international treaty law, and to review their reservations regularly with a view to their withdrawal. It also urged States parties to take appropriate measures to ensure acceptance of the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, on the Committee's meeting time and noted with appreciation the adoption by the General Assembly, in resolution 54/4, of the Optional Protocol to the Convention. The Assembly encouraged the Secretariat to extend further technical assistance to States parties, upon their request, in the preparation of reports, in particular initial reports, and invited Governments, agencies and others to disseminate the Convention and its Optional Protocol, and all relevant parts of the United Nations system to continue to build women's capacity to utilize human rights instruments, particularly the Convention and its Optional Protocol.

II. Status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

2. The Convention was adopted by the General Assembly by its resolution 34/180 of 18 December 1979. It was opened for signature, ratification and accession in New York on 1 March 1980 and, in accordance with article 27, entered into force on 3 September 1981.

3. As at 1 August 2000, a total of 165 States parties had ratified, acceded or succeeded to the Convention, of which 60 had acceded to it and six had succeeded to it. In addition, three further States were signatories to the Convention. The latest countries to ratify the Convention were Tuvalu and Niger on 6 and 8 October 1999, respectively (see annex I for the complete list of States that have signed, ratified, acceded to or succeeded to the Convention, the dates of the signatures and receipt of the instruments of ratification, accession or succession).

4. As at 1 August 2000, 23 States parties had deposited with the Secretary-General instruments of the acceptance of the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention (see annex II). From 1 August 1999 to 1 August 2000, Turkey deposited its instrument of acceptance of the amendment on 9 December 1999.

5. From 1 August 1999 to 1 August 2000, reservations were entered by Niger to article 2, paragraphs (d) and (f); article 5, paragraph (a); article 15, paragraph 4; article 16, paragraphs 1 (c), (e) and (g) and article 29, paragraph 1 (see annex III). Objections were received from Finland and Germany to the modified reservation entered by the Maldives (17 August 1999 and 16 August 1999) (annex IV). A communication was received from Portugal on 21 October 1999 with respect to the Joint Declaration of the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Republic of Portugal on the Question of Macau (see annex V). Withdrawals of reservations were received from Fiji on 24 January 2000 and from Turkey on 20 September 1999 (see annex VI).

III. Optional Protocol

6. By its resolution 54/4 of 6 October 1999 the General Assembly adopted the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The Optional Protocol, which entitles individuals and groups of individuals to submit communications concerning alleged violations of the Convention in a State party to the Convention and the Protocol and also allows the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to inquire of its own motion into grave or systematic violations of the Convention, was opened for signature, ratification and accession on 10 December 1999 in New York. On that day, 23 States parties to the Convention signed the instrument. The Optional Protocol will enter into force three months after the

receipt of the tenth instrument of ratification has been deposited with the Secretary-General. As of 1 August 2000, 43 States parties to the Convention had signed and five States parties had ratified or acceded to the Optional Protocol (see annex XI).

IV. Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women: working methods and capacity to fulfil its mandate

A. States parties' fulfilment of reporting obligations

7. Article 18, paragraph 1, of the Convention provides that States parties undertake to submit reports on the implementation of the Convention within one year after its entry into force for the State party concerned, and thereafter at least every four years and further whenever the Committee so requests.

8. From 1 August 1999 to 1 August 2000, the reports of 25 States parties were received by the Secretary-General. Reports were received from the following States:

Andorra (initial report);

Armenia (initial report);

Argentina (fourth periodic report);

Austria (fifth periodic report);

Burundi (initial report);

Denmark (fifth periodic report);

Fiji (initial report);

Egypt (combined fourth and fifth periodic reports);

Finland (fourth periodic report);

Guyana (second periodic report);

Kazakhstan (initial report);

Lithuania (second periodic report);

Kenya (combined third and fourth periodic report);

Nicaragua (fifth periodic report);

Norway (fifth periodic report);

Peru (fifth periodic report);

Portugal (fourth periodic report);

Singapore (initial report);

Sri Lanka (combined third and fourth periodic report);

Uganda (third periodic report);

Ukraine (combined fourth and fifth periodic reports);

Uruguay (combined second and third periodic report); Viet Nam (second periodic report);

Yemen (fourth periodic report);

Zambia (combined third and fourth periodic report).

9. From 1 August 1999 to 1 August 2000, the Committee considered the reports of 15 States parties: six initial reports; two second periodic reports; four combined second and third periodic reports; two third periodic reports; one combined third and fourth periodic report; one combined fourth and fifth periodic report; and one fifth periodic report (see annex VIII).

10. As at 1 August 2000, reports that had been submitted by 42 States parties had yet to be considered by the Committee (see annex VII).

B. Overdue reports

11. As of 1 August 2000, there were 236 overdue reports, of which 51 are initial reports, 55 second periodic reports, 39 third periodic reports, 56 fourth periodic reports and 35 fifth periodic reports (see annex IX). A list of the 106 States parties whose reports have been overdue more than five years is given in annex X.

12. At its twenty-second and twenty-third sessions, the Committee discussed ways and means to encourage States parties to submit overdue reports. At its twenty-third session, the Committee decided, on an exceptional basis and as a temporary measure in order to address the backlog of reports awaiting consideration and to encourage States parties to fulfil their reporting obligations, invited States parties with overdue reports to combine them in a single document. The Committee decided that the Secretariat should inform the relevant States parties of this decision (decision 23/1).

13. At the same session, taking into account article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention, the Committee requested that the Secretariat explore the possibility of the Committee's holding one of its regular sessions in 2002 or 2003 — the twenty-sixth or twenty-eighth session — outside United Nations Headquarters and, in particular, in the Asia/Pacific region, in order to facilitate the consideration of the initial or periodic reports of States parties from that region (suggestion 23/1). The Committee agreed to continue consideration of further approaches to encourage States parties to fulfil their reporting obligations at its twenty-fourth session.

C. Pre-session working group

14. The pre-session working group of the Committee, which draws up a list of issues and questions on periodic reports, meets at the end of the session prior to the one at which those reports are to be examined so that written responses to the lists of issues and questions can be provided by these States parties well in advance of the next session, be processed in all six official United Nations languages, and distributed to Committee members prior to the session. At its twenty-second session, the Committee decided that the list of issues and questions formulated by the pre-session working group and the responses of States thereto should be circulated to experts prior to the session at which those reports are to be examined (see decision 22/II). At the same session the Committee decided that in drawing up the list of issues and questions, the pre-session working group should formulate a short list of questions and issues focusing, if possible, on major areas of concern in regard to the implementation of the Convention by States parties (decision 22/IV). The implementation of that decision has been taken in regard to the periodic reports of Austria, Cuba, Egypt, Finland, Germany, Iraq, Jamaica and Romania.

D. General recommendations

15. At its twenty-third session, the Committee decided that work on a general recommendation on article 4 of the Convention, concerning temporary special measures aimed at accelerating de facto equality between women and men, would begin at its twenty-fourth session in January /February 2001 with a general discussion and exchange of views with specialized agencies, other bodies of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations.

E. Revised rules of procedure and procedures for the Optional Protocol

16. At its twenty-third session, the Committee adopted its revised rules of procedure as to substance (subject to editing by the Secretariat), in consultation with one of its members. The revised rules of procedure, which replace those adopted by the Committee at its first session, in 1982, will be adopted in final form at the twenty-fourth session of the Committee.

17. Also at its twenty-third session, the Committee discussed a working paper prepared by one of its members (CEDAW/C/2000/II/WP.2) on proposed procedures relating to the Optional Protocol to the Convention, including the respective responsibilities of the Committee and the Secretariat. The Committee agreed to continue discussion on proposed procedures at its twenty-fourth session, on the basis of the working paper and its discussions during the twenty-third session.

V. Efforts to encourage universal ratification of the Convention, its Optional Protocol and acceptance of the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention

18. The Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women have continued their efforts to encourage universal ratification of the Convention and of the Optional Protocol, in the context of the Secretary-General's invitation to universal participation in the framework of the Millennium Assembly. Efforts have also been made to ensure acceptance of the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention, relating to the Committee's meeting time.

19. During the sixth meeting of Commonwealth Ministers for Women's Affairs, held in April 2000 in New Delhi, these issues were addressed by the Special Adviser during her speech to the meeting and in briefings. The Director of the Division also addressed

ratification at the one hundred third meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Union of Women Parliamentarians, held in Amman, in April 2000.

20. During the forty-fourth session of the Commission, the third meeting of the Preparatory Committee of the special session of the General Assembly for the five-year review of the Fourth World Conference on Women, and the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly on "Women 2000", the Special Adviser and the Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women met with several delegations to discuss ratification and compliance with reporting obligations. Offers of technical support have been made to countries contemplating ratification and with regard to fulfilment of reporting obligations.

VI. Technical assistance to States parties

21. In September 2000 the Division for the Advancement of Women will convene a two-week workshop to support the capacity of policy and decision makers to implement the Convention and the concluding comments adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on Cameroon. Similar events directed at enhancing knowledge and understanding of the Convention on the part of government officials and non-governmental organizations, and strengthening capacity for the preparation of initial and periodic reports and monitoring the progress achieved in the implementation of the Convention will be organized in response to the requests of States parties.

VII. Dissemination of the Convention, its Optional Protocol and the work of the Committee

22. The Division for the Advancement of Women continues to maintain a section on its home page on the Internet dedicated to the Convention, its Optional Protocol and the work of the Committee. The text of the Convention and the Optional Protocol, States parties' reports, documents of the Committee, including its concluding comments, and any other relevant information are posted. Links between the Division's homepage and other sites, including that of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCR), allow for cross-reference to other pertinent documents.

23. The Division prepared a portable "ratification board" incorporating the status of the Convention and its Optional Protocol for the signing ceremony of the Protocol which took place on 10 December 1999. In collaboration with the Department of Public Information, the Division also issued a compact version of the Convention and the Protocol. A sales publication *The Optional Protocol: Text and Materials*, prepared by the Division, was published in May 2000.[1]

Notes

[1] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.00.IV.2.

Annex I

List of States parties that have signed, ratified, acceded or succeeded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, as at 1 August 2000

State party	*Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession or succession*	*Date of entry into force*
Albania	11 May 1994[a]	10 June 1994
Algeria	22 May 1996[a b]	21 June 1996
Andorra	15 January 1997[a]	14 February 1997
Angola	17 September 1986[a]	17 October 1986
Antigua and Barbuda	1 August 1989[a]	31 August 1989
Argentina	15 July 1985[b]	14 August 1985
Armenia	13 September 1993[a]	13 October 1993
Australia	28 July 1983[b]	27 August 1983
Austria	31 March 1982[b]	30 April 1982
Azerbaijan	10 July 1995[a]	9 August 1995
Bahamas	6 October 1993[a]	5 November 1993
Bangladesh	6 November 1984[a b]	6 December 1984
Barbados	16 October 1980	3 September 1981
Belarus	4 February 1981[c]	3 September 1981
Belgium	10 July 1985[b]	9 August 1985
Belize	16 May 1990	15 June 1990
Benin	12 March 1992	11 April 1992
Bhutan	31 August 1981	30 September 1981
Bolivia	8 June 1990	8 July 1990
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1 September 1993[d]	1 October 1993
Botswana	13 August 1996[a]	12 September 1996
Brazil	1 February 1984[b]	2 March 1984
Bulgaria	8 February 1982[c]	10 March 1982
Burkina Faso	14 October 1987[a]	13 November 1987
Burundi	8 January 1992	7 February 1992
Cambodia	15 October 1992[a]	14 November 1992
Cameroon	23 August 1994[a]	22 September 1994
Canada	10 December 1981[c]	9 January 1982
Cape Verde	5 December 1980[a]	3 September 1981
Central African Republic	21 June 1991[a]	21 July 1991
Chad	9 June 1995[a]	9 July 1995
Chile	7 December 1989	6 January 1990
China	4 November 1980[b]	3 September 1981
Colombia	19 January 1982	18 February 1982
Comoros	31 October 1994[a]	30 November 1994
Congo	26 July 1982	25 August 1982
Costa Rica	4 April 1986	4 May 1986
Côte d'Ivoire	19 December 1995[a]	17 January 1996
Croatia	9 September 1992[d]	9 October 1992
Cuba	17 July 1980[b]	3 September 1981
Cyprus	23 July 1985[a b]	22 August 1985
Czech Republic[e]	22 February 1993[c d]	24 March 1993

State party	*Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession or succession*	*Date of entry into force*
Democratic Republic of the Congo[f]	17 October 1986	16 November 1986
Denmark	21 April 1983	21 May 1983
Djibouti	2 December 1998[a]	1 January 1999
Dominica	15 September 1980	3 September 1981
Dominican Republic	2 September 1982	2 October 1982
Ecuador	9 November 1981	9 December 1981
Egypt	18 September 1981[b]	18 October 1981
El Salvador	19 August 1981[b]	18 September 1981
Equatorial Guinea	23 October 1984[a]	22 November 1984
Eritrea	5 September 1995[a]	5 October 1995
Estonia	21 October 1991[a]	20 November 1991
Ethiopia	10 September 1981[b]	10 October 1981
Fiji	28 August 1995[a, b]	27 September 1995
Finland	4 September 1986	4 October 1986
France	14 December 1983[b, c]	13 January 1984
Gabon	21 January 1983	20 February 1983
Gambia	16 April 1993	16 May 1993
Georgia	26 October 1994[a]	25 November 1994
Germany[g]	10 July 1985[b]	9 August 1985
Ghana	2 January 1986	1 February 1986
Greece	7 June 1983	7 July 1983
Grenada	30 August 1990	29 September 1990
Guatemala	12 August 1982	11 September 1982
Guinea	9 August 1982	8 September 1982
Guinea-Bissau	23 August 1985	22 September 1985
Guyana	17 July 1980	3 September 1981
Haiti	20 July 1981	3 September 1981
Honduras	3 March 1983	2 April 1983
Hungary	22 December 1980[c]	3 September 1981
Iceland	18 June 1985	18 July 1985
India	9 July 1993[b]	8 August 1993
Indonesia	13 September 1984[b]	13 October 1984
Iraq	13 August 1986[a, b]	12 September 1986
Ireland	23 December 1985[a, b, c]	22 January 1986
Israel	3 October 1991[b]	2 November 1991
Italy	10 June 1985[b]	10 July 1985
Jamaica	19 October 1984[b]	18 November 1984
Japan	25 June 1985	25 July 1985
Jordan	1 July 1992[b]	31 July 1992
Kazakhstan	26 August 1998[a]	25 September 1998
Kenya	9 March 1984[a]	8 April 1984
Kuwait	2 September 1994[a]	2 October 1994
Kyrgyzstan	10 February 1997[a]	12 March 1997
Lao People's Democratic Republic	14 August 1981	13 September 1981
Latvia	14 April 1992[a]	14 May 1992
Lebanon	21 April 1997[a, b]	21 May 1997

State party	*Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession or succession*	*Date of entry into force*
Lesotho	22 August 1995[a, b]	21 September 1995
Liberia	17 July 1984[a]	16 August 1984
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	16 May 1989[a, b]	15 June 1989
Liechtenstein	22 December 1995[a, c]	21 January 1996
Lithuania	18 January 1994[a]	17 February 1994
Luxembourg	2 February 1989[b]	4 March 1989
Madagascar	17 March 1989	16 April 1989
Malawi	12 March 1987[a, c]	11 April 1987
Malaysia	5 July 1995[a, b]	4 August 1995
Maldives	1 July 1993[a, b]	31 July 1993
Mali	10 September 1985	10 October 1985
Malta	8 March 1991[a, b]	7 April 1991
Mauritius	9 July 1984[a, c]	8 August 1984
Mexico	23 March 1981[b]	3 September 1981
Mongolia	20 July 1981[c]	3 September 1981
Morocco	21 June 1993[a, b]	21 July 1993
Mozambique	16 April 1997[a]	16 May 1997
Myanmar	22 July 1997[a, b]	21 August 1997
Namibia	23 November 1992[a]	23 December 1992
Nepal	22 April 1991	22 May 1991
Netherlands	23 July 1991[b]	22 August 1991
New Zealand	10 January 1985[b, c]	9 February 1985
Nicaragua	27 October 1981	26 November 1981
Niger	8 October 1999[a]	7 November 1999
Nigeria	13 June 1985	13 July 1985
Norway	21 May 1981	3 September 1981
Pakistan	12 March 1996[a, b]	11 April 1996
Panama	29 October 1981	28 November 1981
Papua New Guinea	12 January 1995[a]	11 February 1995
Paraguay	6 April 1987[a]	6 May 1987
Peru	13 September 1982	13 October 1982
Philippines	5 August 1981	4 September 1981
Poland	30 July 1980[c]	3 September 1981
Portugal	30 July 1980	3 September 1981
Republic of Korea	27 December 1984[b, c]	26 January 1985
Republic of Moldova	1 July 1994[a]	31 July 1994
Romania	7 January 1982[b]	6 February 1982
Russian Federation	23 January 1981[c]	3 September 1981
Rwanda	2 March 1981	3 September 1981
Saint Kitts and Nevis	25 April 1985[a]	25 May 1985
Saint Lucia	8 October 1982[a]	7 November 1982
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	4 August 1981[a]	3 September 1981
Samoa	25 September 1992[a]	25 October 1992
Senegal	5 February 1985	7 March 1985
Seychelles	5 May 1992[a]	4 June 1992
Sierra Leone	11 November 1988	11 December 1988

State party	*Date of receipt of the instrument of of ratification or accession or succession*	*Date of entry into force*
Singapore	5 October 1995[a b]	4 November 1995
Slovakia[e]	28 May 1993[c d]	27 June 1993
Slovenia	6 July 1992[d]	5 August 1992
South Africa	15 December 1995[a]	14 January 1996
Spain	5 January 1984[b]	4 February 1984
Sri Lanka	5 October 1981	4 November 1981
Suriname	1 March 1993[a]	31 March 1993
Sweden	2 July 1980	3 September 1981
Switzerland	27 March 1997[a]	26 April 1997
Tajikistan	26 October 1993[a]	25 November 1993
Thailand	9 August 1985[a b c]	8 September 1985
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	18 January 1994[d]	17 February 1994
Togo	26 September 1983[a]	26 October 1983
Trinidad and Tobago	12 January 1990[b]	11 February 1990
Tunisia	20 September 1985[b]	20 October 1985
Turkey	20 December 1985[a b]	19 January 1986
Turkmenistan	1 May 1997[e]	31 May 1997
Tuvalu	6 October 1999[a]	5 November 1999
Uganda	22 July 1985	21 August 1985
Ukraine	12 March 1981[c]	3 September 1981
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	7 April 1986[b]	7 May 1986
United Republic of Tanzania	20 August 1985	19 September 1985
Uruguay	9 October 1981	8 November 1981
Uzbekistan	19 July 1995[a]	18 August 1995
Vanuatu	8 September 1995[a]	8 October 1995
Venezuela	2 May 1983[b]	1 June 1983
Viet Nam	17 February 1982[b]	19 March 1982
Yemen[h]	30 May 1984[a b]	29 June 1984
Yugoslavia	26 February 1982	28 March 1982
Zambia	21 June 1985	21 July 1985
Zimbabwe	13 May 1991[a]	12 June 1991

[a] Accession.
[b] Declarations and reservations.
[c] Reservation subsequently withdrawn.
[d] Succession.
[e] Before becoming separate States on 1 January 1993, the Czech Republic and Slovakia formed part of Czechoslovakia, which State had ratified the Convention on 16 February 1982.
[f] Effective 17 May 1997, Zaire was renamed Democratic Republic of the Congo.
[g] With effect from 3 October 1990, the German Democratic Republic (which ratified the Convention on 9 July 1980) and the Federal Republic of Germany (which ratified the Convention on 10 July 1985) united to form one sovereign State, which acts in the United Nations under the designation "Germany".
[h] On 22 May 1990 Democratic Yemen and Yemen merged to form a single State, which acts in the United Nations under the designation "Yemen".

Annex II

States parties which have deposited with the Secretary-General instruments of acceptance of the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention, as at 1 August 2000

State Party	*Acceptance date*
Australia	4 June 1998
Brazil	5 March 1997
Canada	3 November 1997
Chile	8 May 1998
Denmark	12 March 1996
Finland	18 March 1996
France	8 August 1997
Guatemala	3 June 1999
Italy	31 May 1996
Liechtenstein	15 April 1997
Madagascar	19 July 1996
Malta	5 March 1997
Mexico	16 September 1996
Mongolia	19 December 1997
Netherlands	10 December 1997[a]
New Zealand	26 September 1996
Norway	29 March 1996
Panama	5 November 1996
Republic of Korea	12 August 1996
Sweden	17 July 1996
Switzerland	2 December 1997
Turkey	9 December 1999
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	19 November 1997[b]

[a] For the Kingdom in Europe, the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba.

[b] For the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man, the British Virgin Islands, and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Annex III

Reservations made by States parties to the Convention between 1 August 1999 and 1 August 2000

Reservations made by Niger

Article 2, paragraphs (d) and (f)

The Government of the Republic of the Niger expresses reservations with regards to article 2, paragraphs (d) and (f), concerning the taking of all appropriate measures to abolish all customs and practices which constitute discrimination against women, particularly in respect of succession.

Article 5, paragraph (a)

The Government of the Republic of the Niger expresses reservations with regard to the modification of social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women.

Article 15, paragraph 4

The Government of the Republic of the Niger declares that it can be bound by the provisions of the paragraph, particularly those concerning the right of women to choose their residence and domicile, only to the extent that these provisions refer only to unmarried women.

Article 16, paragraph 1 (c), (e) and (g)

The Government of the Republic of the Niger expresses reservations concerning the above-referenced provisions of article 16, particularly those concerning the same rights and responsibilities during marriage and its dissolution, the same rights to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children, and the right to choose a family name;

The Government of the Republic of the Niger declares that the provisions of article 2, paragraphs (d) and (f), and article 5, paragraph (a) and (b), article 15, paragraph 4, and article 16, paragraph 1 (c), (e) and (g), concerning family relations, cannot be applied immediately, as they are contrary to existing customs and practices which, by their nature, can be modified only with the passage of time and the evolution of society and cannot, therefore, be abolished by an act of authority.

Article 29

The Government of the Republic of the Niger expresses a reservation concerning article 29, paragraph 1, which provides that any dispute between two or more States concerning the interpretation or application of the present Convention which is not settled by negotiation shall, at the request of one of them, be submitted to arbitration.

In view of the Government of the Niger, a dispute of this nature can be submitted to arbitration only with the consent of all the parties to the dispute.

Declaration

The Government of the Republic of the Niger declares that the term "family education" which appears in article 5, paragraph (b) of the Convention, should be interpreted as referring to public education concerning the family, and that in any event, article 5 would be applied in compliance with article 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Annex IV

Objections to reservations to the Convention made between 1 August 1999 and 1 August 2000

Objection by Finland to the modified reservation made by Maldives

[17 August 1999]

The Government of Finland objected in 1994 to the reservations made by the Government of Maldives upon accession to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The Government of Finland has now examined the contents of the modified reservation made by the Government of the Republic of Maldives to the said Convention.

The Government of Finland welcomes with satisfaction that the Government of the Republic of Maldives has specified the reservations made at the time of its accession to the Convention. However, the reservations to article 7 (a) and article 16 still include elements which are objectionable. The Government of Finland therefore wishes to declare that it assumes that the Government of the Republic of Maldives will ensure the implementation of the rights recognized in the Convention and will do its utmost to bring its national legislation into compliance with obligations under the Convention with a view to withdrawing the reservation. This declaration does not preclude the entry into force of the Convention between the Maldives and Finland.

Objection by Germany to a partial withdrawal of the original reservation made by Maldives

[16 August 1999]

The modification does not constitute a withdrawal or a partial withdrawal of the original reservations to the Convention by the Republic of Maldives. Instead, the modification constitutes a new reservation to article 7 (a) (right of women to vote in all elections) and article 16 (elimination of discrimination against women in all matters relating to marriage and family relations) of the Convention extending and reinforcing the original reservations.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany notes that reservations to treaties can only be made by a State when signing, ratifying, accepting, approving or acceding to a treaty (article 19 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties). After a State had bound itself to a treaty under international law, it can no longer submit new reservations or extend or add to old reservations. It is also possible to totally or partially withdraw original reservations, something unfortunately not done by the Government of the Republic of Maldives with its modification.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany objects to the modification of the reservations.

Annex V

Communication received from Portugal

[19 October 1999]

In accordance with the Joint Declaration of the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Republic of Portugal on the Questions of Macau (hereinafter referred to as the Joint Declaration), the Government of the People's Republic of China will resume the exercise of sovereignty over Macau with effect from 20 December 1999. Macau will, from the date, become a Special Administrative Region in foreign and defence affairs, which are the responsibilities of the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China.

In this connection [the Government of the People's Republic of China informs the Secretary-General of the following:]

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (hereinafter referred to as the "Convention"), to which the Government of the People's Republic of China deposited the instrument of ratification on 4 November 1980, will apply to the Macau Special Administrative Region with effect from 20 December 1999. The Government of the People's Republic of China also wishes to make the following declaration:

The reservation made by the Government of the People's Republic of China to paragraph 1 of article 29 of the Convention will also apply to the Macau Special Administrative Region.

The Government of the People's Republic of China will assume responsibilities for the international rights and obligations arising from the application of the Convention to the Macau Special Administrative Region.

In accordance with the Joint Declaration of the Government of the Republic of Portugal and the Government of the People's Republic of China on the Questions of Macau, signed on 13 April 1987, the Republic of Portugal will continue to have international responsibility for Macau until 19 December 1999, and from that date onwards the People's Republic of China will resume the exercise of sovereignty over Macau with effect from 20 December 1999. From 20 December onwards the Republic of Portugal will cease to be responsible for the international rights and obligations arising from the application of the Convention to Macau.

Annex VI

Withdrawals of reservations and declarations to the Convention between 1 August 1999 and 1 August 2000

Fiji

[24 January 2000]

The Government of Fiji notified the Secretary-General that it had decided to withdraw its reservations on articles 5 (a) and 9 of the Convention.

Turkey

[20 September 1999]

The Government of the Republic of Turkey has decided to withdraw its reservations made upon signature and confirmed upon ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women with regard to article 15, paragraphs 2 and 4; and article 16, paragraphs 1 (c), (d), (f) and (g).

The reservation and declaration made upon signature and confirmed upon ratification by the Government of Turkey with respect to article 29, paragraph 1, and article 9, paragraph 1, of the Convention, respectively, continue to apply.

Annex VII

States parties whose reports have been submitted but have not yet been considered by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, as of 1 August 2000

State party	*Date due*	*Date received*	*Document symbol*
Initial reports			
Andorra	14 May 1998	23 June 2000	CEDAW/C/AND/1
Burundi	7 February 1998	1 June 2000	CEDAW/C/BDI/1
Fiji	27 September 1996	29 February 2000	CEDAW/C/FIJ/1
Kazakhstan	25 September 1999	26 January 2000	CEDAW/C/KAZ/1
Maldives	1 July 1994	28 January 1999	CEDAW/C/MDV/1
Singapore	4 November 1996	1 December 1999	CEDAW/C/SGP/1
Uzbekistan	18 August 1996	19 January 2000	CEDAW/C/UZB/1
Second periodic reports			
Armenia	13 October 1998	23 August 1999	CEDAW/C/ARM/2
Guyana	3 September 1989	20 September 1999	CEDAW/C/GNY/2
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	15 June 1994	14 December 1998	CEDAW/C/LBY/2
Netherlands	22 August 1996	10 December 1998	CEDAW/C/NET/2 CEDAW/C/NET/2/Add.1 CEDAW/C/NET/2/Add.2
Slovenia	5 August 1997	26 April 1999	CEDAW/C/SNV/2
Viet Nam	19 March 1987	February 1999	CEDAW/C/VNM/2
Combined second and third periodic reports			
Equatorial Guinea	22 November 1989	6 January 1994	CEDAW/C/GNQ/2-3
Uruguay	8 November 1986	8 February 1999	CEDAW/C/URY/2-3
Combined second, third and fourth periodic reports			
Jamaica	18 November 1993	17 February 1998	CEDAW/C/JAM/2-4
Third periodic reports			
Egypt	18 October 1990	30 January 1996	CEDAW/C/EGY/3
Finland	4 October 1995	29 January 1997	CEDAW/C/FIN/3
France	13 January 1993	5 October 1999	CEDAW/C/FRA/3
Uganda	21 August 1994	22 May 2000	CEDAW/C/UGA/3
Yugoslavia	28 March 1991	14 October 1998	CEDAW/C/YUG/3

State party	*Date due*	*Date received*	*Document symbol*
Combined third and fourth periodic reports			
Belgium	8 August 1994	29 September 1998	CEDAW/C/BEL/3-4
Iceland	3 July 1994	14 July 1998	CEDAW/C/ICE/3-4
Kenya	8 April 1993	5 January 2000	CEDAW/C/KEN/3-4
Mongolia	3 September 1990	8 December 1998	CEDAW/C/MNG/3-4
Sri Lanka	4 November 1990	7 October 1999	CEDAW/C/LKA/3-4
Zambia	21 July 1994	12 August 1999	CEDAW/C/ZAM/3-4
Fourth periodic reports			
Argentina	14 August 1998	18 January 2000	CEDAW/C/ARG/4
Denmark	21 May 1996	9 January 1997	CEDAW/C/DEN/4
Finland	4 October 1999	21 November 1999	CEDAW/FIN/4
Japan	25 July 1998	24 July 1998	CEDAW/C/JPN/4
Nicaragua	26 November 1994	16 June 1998	CEDAW/C/NIC/4
Portugal	3 September 1994	23 November 1996	CEDAW/C/PRT/4
Sweden	3 September 1994	21 May 1996	CEDAW/C/SWE/4
Yemen	29 June 1997	8 March 2000	CEDAW/C/YEM/4
Combined fourth and fifth periodic reports			
Egypt	18 October 1994	30 March 2000	CEDAW/C/EGY/4-5
Ukraine	3 September 1994	2 August 1999	CEDAW/C/UKR/4-5
Fifth periodic reports			
Denmark	21 May 2000	13 June 2000	CEDAW/ C/DEN/5
Nicaragua	26 November 1998	2 September 1999	CEDAW/C/NIC/5
Norway	3 September 1998	23 March 2000	CEDAW/NOR/5
Peru	13 October 1999	21 July 2000	CEDAW/C/PER/5
Russian Federation	3 September 1998	3 March 1998	CEDAW/C/ESR/5

Annex VIII

Reports considered by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women from 1 August 1999 to 1 August 2000

Twenty-second session

Initial reports

India
Myanmar

Initial and second periodic reports

Jordan

Initial report, second and third periodic reports

Democratic Republic of the Congo (formerly Zaire)

Combined second and third periodic report

Burkina Faso

Combined second and third periodic reports

Belarus
Luxembourg

Combined second and third periodic report and fourth periodic report

Germany

Third periodic reports

Belarus
Luxembourg

Twenty- third session

Initial reports

Cameroon
Republic of Moldova

Initial and second periodic reports

Lithuania

Combined second and third periodic reports

Iraq

Combined third and fourth report and fifth periodic report

Austria

Fourth periodic reports

Cuba

Combined fourth and fifth periodic reports

Romania

Annex IX

States parties whose reports are due but have not yet been submitted to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, as of 1 August 2000

State party	*Date due*
Initial reports	
Albania	10 June 1999
Angola	17 October 1987
Bahamas	5 November 1994
Benin	11 April 1993
Bhutan	30 September 1986
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1 October 1994
Botswana	12 September 1997
Brazil	2 March 1985
Cambodia	14 November 1982
Cape Verde	3 September 1982
Central Africa	21 July 1992
Chad	9 July 1996
Comoros	30 November 1995
Congo	25 August 1983
Costa Rica	4 May 1987
Côte d'Ivoire	17 January 1997
Djibouti	2 January 2000
Dominica	3 September 1982
Eritrea	5 October 1996
Estonia	20 November 1992
Gambia	16 May 1994
Grenada	29 September 1991
Guinea	8 September 1983
Guinea-Bissau	22 September 1986
Haiti	3 September 1982
Kuwait	2 October 1995
Lao People's Democratic Republic	13 September 1982
Latvia	14 May 1993
Lebanon	21 May 1998
Lesotho	21 September 1996
Liberia	16 August 1985
Malaysia	4 August 1996
Malta	7 April 1992
Mozambique	16 May 1998
Pakistan	4 April 1997
Papua New Guinea	11 February 1996
Saint Kitts and Nevis	25 May 1986
Saint Lucia	7 November 1983
Samoa	25 October 1997
Seychelles	4 June 1993

State party	*Date due*
Sierra Leone	11 December 1989
Suriname	31 March 1994
Switzerland	26 April 1998
Tajikistan	25 October 1994
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	17 February 1992
Togo	26 October 1984
Trinidad and Tobago	11 February 1991
Turkmenistan	31 May 1998
Vanuatu	8 October 1996
Second periodic reports	
Albania	10 June 1999
Angola	17 October 1991
Armenia	13 October 1998
Bahamas	5 November 1998
Benin	11 April 1997
Bhutan	30 September 1986
Bolivia	8 July 1995
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1 October 1998
Brazil	2 March 1989
Burundi	7 February 1997
Cambodia	14 November 1997
Cameroon	22 September 1999
Cape Verde	3 September 1986
Central African Republic	21 July 1996
Chad	9 July 2000
Comoros	30 November 1999
Congo	25 August 1987
Costa Rica	4 May 1991
Croatia	9 October 1997
Czech Republic	24 March 1997
Dominica	3 September 1986
Estonia	20 November 1996
Gabon	20 February 1988
Gambia	16 May 1998
Georgia	25 November 1999
Grenada	29 September 1995
Guinea-Bissau	8 September 1998
Haiti	3 September 1986
India	8 August 1998
Kuwait	2 October 1999
Lao People's Democratic Republic	13 September 1986
Latvia	14 May 1997
Liberia	16 August 1989
Madagascar	16 April 1994
Malawi	11 April 1992
Maldives	1 July 1998

State party	*Date due*
Mali	10 October 1990
Malta	7 April 1996
Morocco	21 July 1998
Namibia	23 December 1997
Nepal	22 May 1996
Papua New Guinea	11 February 2000
Republic of Moldova	31 July 1999
Saints Kitts and Nevis	25 May 1990
Saint Lucia	7 November 1987
Samoa	25 October 1997
Seychelles	4 June 1997
Sierra Leone	11 December 1993
Slovakia	27 June 1998
Suriname	31 March 1998
Tajikistan	25 October 1998
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	17 February1999
Togo	26 October 1988
Trinidad and Tobago	11 February 1995
Zimbabwe	12 June 1996
Third periodic reports	
Angola	17 October 1995
Belize	15 June 1999
Bhutan	30 September 1990
Bolivia	7 July 1999
Brazil	2 March 1993
Cape Verde	3 September 1990
Central African Republic	21 July 2000
Congo	25 August 1991
Costa Rica	4 May 1995
Cyprus	22 August 1994
Dominica	3 September 1990
El Salvador	18 September 1990
Gabon	20 February 1992
Ghana	1 February 1995
Grenada	29 September 1999
Guatemala	11 September 1991
Guinea	8 September 1991
Guinea-Bissau	22 September 1994
Guyana	3 September 1990
Haiti	3 September 1990
Lao People's Democratic Republic	13 September 1990
Liberia	16 August 1993
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	15 June 1998
Madagascar	16 April 1998
Malawi	11 April 1996
Mali	10 October 1994

State party	*Date due*
Malta	7 April 2000
Mauritius	8 August 1993
Nepal	22 May 2000
Paraguay	6 May 1996
Saint Kitts and Nevis	25 May 1994
Saint Lucia	7 November 1991
Senegal	7 March 1994
Sierra Leone	11 December 1997
Togo	20 October 1994
Trinidad and Tobago	11 February 1999
Tunisia	20 October 1994
Viet Nam	19 March 1991
Zimbabwe	12 June 2000
Fourth periodic reports	
Angola	17 October 1999
Australia	27 August 1996
Barbados	3 September 1995
Belarus	3 September 1994
Bhutan	30 September 1994
Brazil	2 March 1997
Bulgaria	10 March 1995
Cape Verde	3 September 1994
Congo	25 August 1995
Costa Rica	4 May 1999
Cyprus	22 August 1998
Democratic Republic of Congo	16 November 1999
Dominica	3 September 1994
Ecuador	9 December 1994
El Salvador	18 September 1994
Equatorial Guinea	22 November 1997
Ethiopia	10 October 1994
France	13 January 1997
Gabon	20 February 1996
Ghana	1 February 1999
Greece	7 July 1996
Guatemala	11 September 1995
Guinea	8 September 1995
Guinea-Bissau	22 September 1998
Guyana	3 September 1994
Haiti	3 September 1994
Honduras	2 April 1996
Hungary	3 September 1994
Indonesia	13 October 1997
Iraq	12 September 1999
Ireland	22 January 1999
Italy	10 July 1998
Lao People's Democratic Republic	13 September 1994

State party	*Date due*
Liberia	16 August 1997
Malawi	11 April 2000
Mali	10 October 1998
Mauritius	8 August 1997
Nigeria	13 July 1998
Panama	28 November 1994
Poland	3 September 1994
Rwanda	3 September 1994
Saint Kitts and Nevis	25 May 1998
Saint Lucia	7 November 1995
Saint Vincent and Grenadines	3 September 1994
Senegal	7 March 1998
Thailand	8 September 1998
Togo	26 October 1996
Tunisia	20 October 1998
Turkey	19 January 1999
Uganda	21 August 1998
United Republic of Tanzania	19 September 1998
Uruguay	8 November 1994
Venezuela	1 June 1996
Viet Nam	19 March 1995
Yugoslavia	28 March 1995
Fifth periodic reports	
Barbados	3 September 1999
Belarus	3 September 1998
Bhutan	3 September 1998
Bulgaria	10 March 1999
Canada	9 January 1999
Cape Verde	3 September 1998
China	3 September 1998
Cuba	3 September 1998
Columbia	18 February 1999
Congo	25 August 1999
Dominica	3 September 1998
Dominican Republic	2 September 1999
Ecuador	9 December 1998
El Salvador	18 September 1998
Ethiopia	10 October 1998
Gabon	20 February 2000
Gambia	16 May 2000
Guyana	3 September 1998
Haiti	3 September 1998
Hungary	3 September 1998
Lao People's Democratic Republic	13 September 1998
Mexico	3 September 1998
Mongolia	3 September 1998
Panama	28 November 1998

State party	*Date due*
Philippines	4 September 1998
Poland	3 September 1998
Portugal	3 September 1998
Rwanda	3 September 1998
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	3 September 1998
Sri Lanka	4 November 1998
Sweden	3 September 1998
Uruguay	8 November 1998
Venezuela	19 March 1999
Yugoslavia	28 March 1998

Annex X

Reports of States parties which have been overdue for more than five years

State party	*Date due*
Initial reports	
Albania	10 July 1995
Angola	17 October 1997
Bahamas	5 November 1994
Benin	11 April 1993
Bhutan	30 September 1982
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1 October 1994
Brazil	2 March 1985
Burundi	7 February 1993
Cambodia	14 November 1993
Cape Verde	3 September 1982
Central African Republic	21 July 1992
Comoros	30 November 1995
Congo	25 August 1983
Costa Rica	4 May 1987
Dominica	3 September 1982
Estonia	20 November 1992
Gambia	16 May 1994
Grenada	29 September 1991
Guinea	8 September 1983
Guinea-Bissau	22 September 1986
Haiti	3 September 1982
Kuwaiti	2 October 1995
Lao People's Democratic Republic	13 September 1982
Latvia	14 May 1993
Liberia	16 August 1985
Malta	7 April 1992
Nepal	22 May 1992
Saint Kitts and Nevis	25 May 1986
Saint Lucia	7 November 1983
Samoa	25 October 1993
Seychelles	4 June 1993
Sierra Leone	11 December 1989
Suriname	31 March 1994
Tajikistan	25 October 1994
Togo	26 October 1984
Trinidad and Tobago	11 February 1991
Second periodic reports	
Angola	17 October 1991
Bhutan	30 September 1986
Bolivia	8 July 1995

State party	*Date due*
Brazil	2 March 1989
Cape Verde	3 September 1986
Congo	25 August 1987
Costa Rica	4 May 1991
Dominica	3 September 1986
Gabon	20 February 1988
Grenada	29 September 1995
Guinea	8 September 1987
Guinea-Bissau	22 September 1990
Guyana	3 September 1986
Haiti	3 September 1986
Lao People's Democratic Republic	13 September 1986
Liberia	16 August 1989
Madagascar	16 April 1994
Malawi	11 April 1992
Mali	10 October 1990
Saint Kitts and Nevis	25 May 1990
Saint Lucia	7 November 1987
Sierra Leone	11 December 1993
Togo	26 October 1988
Trinidad and Tobago	11 February 1995
Third periodic reports	
Angola	17 October 1995
Bhutan	30 September 1980
Brazil	2 March 1993
Cape Verde	3 September 1990
Congo	25 August 1991
Costa Rica	4 May 1995
Cyprus	22 August 1994
Dominica	3 September 1990
El Salvador	18 September 1990
Gabon	20 February 1992
Ghana	1 February 1995
Guatemala	11 September 1991
Guinea	8 September 1991
Guinea-Bissau	22 September 1994
Guyana	3 September 1990
Haiti	3 September 1990
Lao People's Democratic Republic	13 September 1990
Liberia	16 August 1993
Mali	10 October 1994
Mauritius	8 August 1993
Saint Kitts and Nevis	25 May 1990
Saint Lucia	7 November 1991
Senegal	7 March 1994
Togo	26 October 1992
Viet Nam	19 March 1991

State party	*Date due*
Fourth periodic reports	
Belarus	3 September 1994
Bhutan	30 September 1994
Bulgaria	10 March 1995
Cape Verde	3 September 1994
Congo	25 August 1995
Dominica	3 September 1994
Ecuador	9 December 1994
El Salvador	18 September 1994
Ethiopia	10 October 1994
Guatemala	11 September 1995
Guinea	8 September 1995
Guyana	3 September 1994
Haiti	3 September 1994
Hungary	3 September 1994
Lao People's Democratic Republic	13 September 1994
Panama	28 November 1994
Poland	3 September 1994
Rwanda	3 September 1994
Saint Vincent and Grenadines	3 September 1994
Uruguay	8 November 1994
Viet Nam	19 March 1995

Annex XI

States parties that have signed, ratified or acceded to the Optional Protocol

State party	*Date signed*	*Ratification, accession*
1. Argentina	28 February 2000	
2. Austria	10 December 1999	
3. Azerbaijan	6 June 2000	
4. Belgium	10 December 1999	
5. Benin	25 May 2000	
6. Bolivia	10 December 1999	
7. Bulgaria	6 June 2000	
8. Chile	10 December 1999	
9. Colombia	10 December 1999	
10. Costa Rica	10 December 1999	
11. Croatia	5 June 2000	
12. Cuba	17 March 2000	
13. Czech Republic	10 December 1999	
14. Denmark	10 December 1999	31 May 2000
15. Dominican Republic	14 March 2000	
16. Ecuador	10 December 1999	
17. Finland	10 December 1999	
18. France	10 December 1999	9 June 2000
19. Germany	10 December 1999	
20. Ghana	24 February 2000	
21. Greece	10 December 1999	
22. Iceland	10 December 1999	
23. Indonesia	28 February 2000	
24. Italy	10 December 1999	
25. Liechtenstein	10 December 1999	
26. Luxembourg	10 December 1999	
27. Mexico	10 December 1999	
28. Namibia	19 May 2000	26 May 2000
29. Netherlands	10 December 1999	
30. Norway	10 December 1999	
31. Panama	9 June 2000	
32. Paraguay	28 December 1999	
33. Philippines	21 March 2000	
34. Portugal	16 February 2000	

State party	*Date signed*	*Ratification, accession*
35. Senegal	10 December 1999	26 May 2000
36. Slovakia	5 June 2000	
37. Slovenia	10 December 1999	
38. Spain	14 March 2000	